

October 16, 1975.

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
School of Medicine  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Joshua:

You will remember that we considered a possible visit of yours in Germany in the course of this autumn - when we met at WHO/Geneva.

Today I would like to propose the following:

The "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" (Bonn) which is the main granting organization in Germany has arranged ~~a~~ meeting of its Commission of the Senate for questions of safety etc. on November 28, 1975, in Bonn. The only subject of the meeting - to which all kinds of-VIP's have been invited, including important people of our Government - is "Aspects of Genetic Manipulation". Representatives of the "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" have seen some of the notices of WHO about genetic manipulation, ethics etc. as a result of our last meeting there. I was asked whether it might be possible to invite you to join the discussion of the Commission of DFG in case you would be here around that time (end of November/beginning of December). They would like you to give a speech on these problems, as you see them, and further discuss these matters in your presence.

Therefore, I think it might be convenient - if not too short notice - to invite you for a visit of Germany around the end of November, in case you could still manage. This invitation would be three-fold, so to say: by the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (our Institute in Freiburg), by the Deutsche Forschungs-Gemeinschaft (DFG), and by our "Gesellschaft für Immunologie" of which I am the President. The three Institutions would share in financing your trip and the expenses of your stay. - The Secretary General of our "Gesellschaft für Immunologie" is Professor H.G.Schwick, Director of Research of the Behring-Werke, Marburg. The Behring people would certainly also like to have you with them. By the way, with regard to our research on hybrid enterobacterial strains we are cooperating with Behring (Schwick).

In case you would be in a position to accept our invitation, there would be several other Institutions (in Heidelberg, in Vienna, and maybe in Berlin) which would be eager to have you with them for a day with a talk on the above-mentioned problems. I am perfectly ready to coordinate these invitations as soon as I have your accordance. Naturally, every further invitation would be financed by the inviting organization.

x the Vienna they would also like to invite top people of the government, scientists etc.

May I propose that you first find out whether this invitation around the end of November would be acceptable at all - secondly, if so, how much time you could spare (how many days)? Then, I could co-ordinate things in a way that as many people as possible could be included (on the one hand), but that you would not be exhausted (on the other hand).

The main issue of the "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" and other interested Organizations would be: aspects around genetic manipulations. My Institute and Behring (who could, of course, also manage to arrange for one meeting in Freiburg or Marburg, in case your time would be restricted) would like to discuss matters of hybridization etc. with you, besides great interest in any consideration about genetic manipulation in a more general way. - I know, of course, that you were engaged with many other exiting subjects during the recent years. In case you would like to speak on any other (such) subject, we would - of course - be delighted.

So, please, consider this invitation, and let me know at your earliest convenience what you feel about it. I think, especially, that you would do the "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" and representatives of our Government a great favour if you could come to Bonn on November 28 for the meeting of the DFG Senat's Commission.

- - - - -

1701/120  
I will be in New York the whole next week, from October 19-25. We are living at Abbey Aldrich Hall of the Rockefeller University where we could be reached by phone (early morning or late at night). We are the guests of Sloan-Kettering Institute (Lewis Thomas). Therefore, it may perhaps be possible to telephone. If I would know your number, I am ready to phone you.

Looking forward to hearing from you and with warm regards, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,



Otto Westphal

P.S.

As soon as we would have your principal accordance, you would receive formal invitations and more details.

O.W.

Copies

DFG, Bonn-Godesberg  
H.G.Schwick, Marburg  
C.Steffen, Vienna  
W.Helmbold, Heidelberg